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A MANUAL

OF THE

RULES OF FAITH AND ORDER

OF

ZION'S CHURCH,

PARISH OF PORTLAND, N. B.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.
PRINTED BY BARNES AND COMPANY,
PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.
1868.

ERRATUM.

At page 6, after sixth line from top, insert the following :—

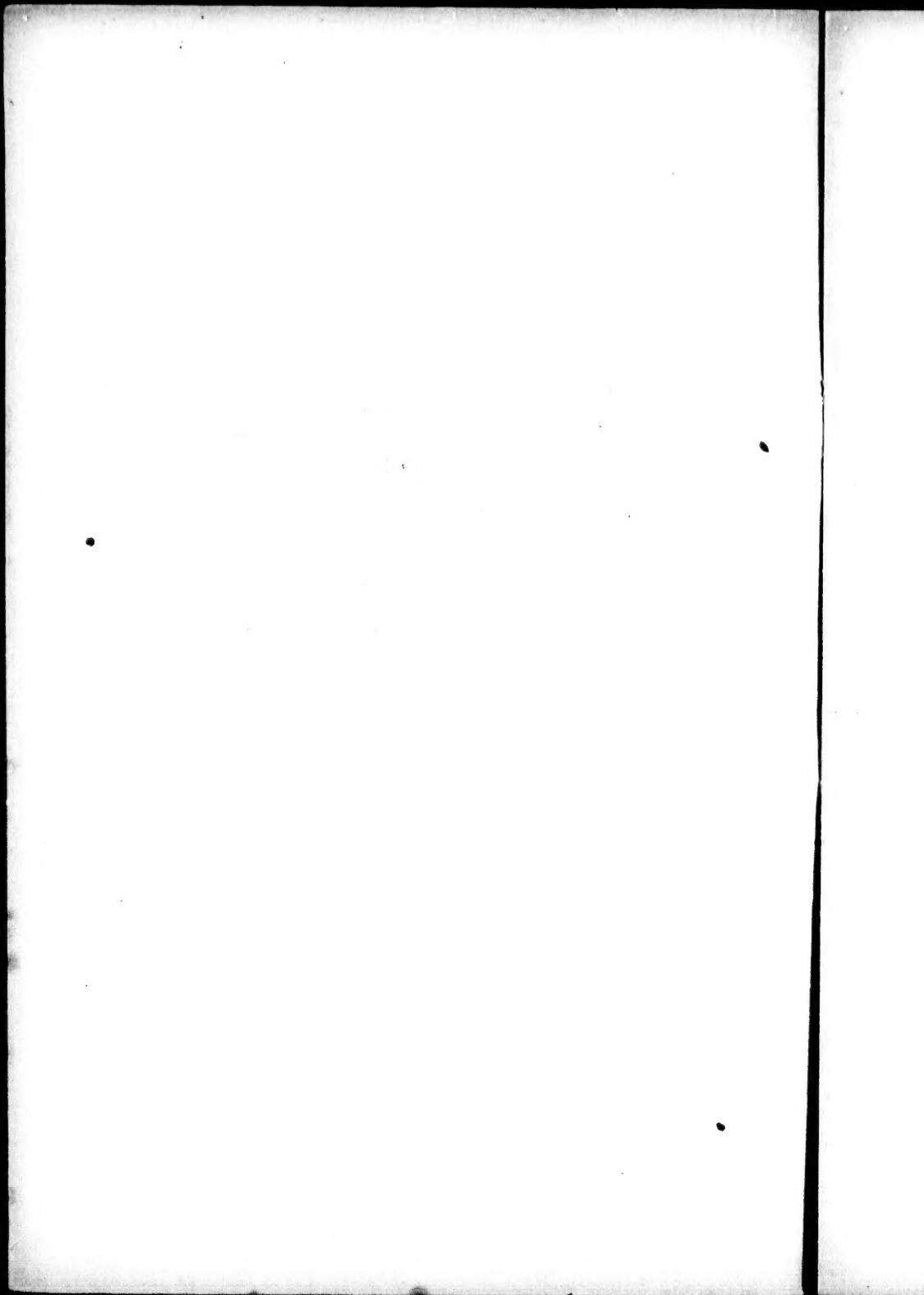
“Mr. Daniels’ engagement closed August 1, 1859. He was succeeded by Rev. T. B. Smith.”

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We, the undersigned, having been appointed by Zion's Church to prepare a Manual of its rules of Faith and Order for publication, have attended to that duty, and present the following as the result of our labors.

W. H. DANIELS,
JOHN OWENS,
THOMAS MILLER.

St. John, October 1862.



HISTORICAL SKETCH.



THE Edifice known as ZION'S CHURCH, in the Parish of Portland, N. B., was erected by JOHN OWENS, Esquire, in accordance with his long cherished intention of devoting a portion of his property to benevolent purposes.

The design of this enterprise was the establishment of a place of worship in which religious services should be regularly maintained, *open and free to all*; and also the gathering of an Evangelical Christian Church, which should be liberal in principles and independent in government.

On Sunday the twenty-fifth day of July, A. D, 1858, the Edifice was opened for Divine Worship. The dedicatory services were performed by the Rev. Dr. Donald of St. John. On the following Sabbath the Rev. W. H. Daniels commenced his labors with the congregation.

"Zion's Sunday School" was organized August 29th, 1858. Social religious meetings were commenced the following month.

Much religious interest was manifested during the year, and several persons professed faith in the Saviour.

A Church was organized in the month of August 1859, and the Church Edifice being too small for the congregation, was enlarged so as to accommodate 800 persons. The Parsonage of Zion's Church was erected by Mr. Owens during the pastorate of Mr. Smith. His connection with the church continued until May 1st, 1861, when Mr. Daniels resumed his pastorate.

Public Services in ordination of Pastor Daniels were held in Zion's Church on Sunday, September 1st, 1861. They were performed by Rev. Henry Wilkes, D. D., Pastor of Zion Church, Montreal, C. W., Rev. R. Wilson, of Sheffield, N. B., and Rev. George Stirling, of Keswick Ridge, N. B., assisted by several Ministers of the City of St. John.

ENDOWMENT OF ZION'S CHURCH.

In order that religious services may be permanently maintained in Zion's Church, and its seats remain forever free, Mr. Owens has settled an endowment upon the Church.

This fund, together with the Church Edifice, the Parsonage and other Church property, is vested in a board of Trustees, to be held for the maintenance of the ordinances of Religion in connection with the Society and Communion whose rules of Faith and Order are herewith set forth.

The interest of the Endowment, and the use of the Parsonage are to be applied to the support of the Pastor.

The number of Trustees is five. Vacancies occurring in the board, to be filled by the board itself. The duties of the Trustees commence at Mr. Owens' decease.

RULES OF ORDER.

Zion's Church claims and exercises the right to manage its own affairs. All questions of order and discipline are decided by vote of the members at their regular monthly meetings.

Pastorate.—The election of the Pastor of Zion's Church is vested in the board of Trustees. But their decision in such cases is subject to a vote of the whole church; a two thirds majority of the church being necessary, in order to reverse the decision of the Trustees.

Membership.—Candidates for Membership are examined by the Pastor, concerning their faith and experience, or their credentials from other Churches.

On the recommendation of the Pastor, candidates may be received in the communion of Zion's Church, by vote of a majority of its members, and assenting before them to the following confession of faith.

Recommendations to membership must lie over at least one month before the vote of the Church is taken thereon.

Disorderly or unworthy persons may be suspended or excommunicated by a majority of the members of the church present at a regular meeting.

Questions of excommunication must lie over for decision, at least one month after they are presented to the church.

Baptism.—Zion's Church does not insist on uniformity in the mode of Baptism. Candidates must decide upon the mode of their own Baptism. The question of the Baptism of infants is left to the decision of their Parents.

Lord's Supper.—Zion's Church recognizes the right of all true believers to join in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and accordingly invites all who love the Lord Jesus Christ to commune with them at His table.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I.—I believe in one God, an Eternal Spirit, infinite in holiness, wisdom, and power; the creator and preserver of all things, and the Judge of all men.

ARTICLE II.—I believe that God has given three revelations of Himself, as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

ARTICLE III.—I believe that the Bible is a faithful record of God's works and will, and receive it as of Divine authority in all questions of Faith and Duty.

ARTICLE IV.—I believe that human nature is of itself inclined to evil, and that it cannot attain to holiness without Divine assistance.

ARTICLE V.—I believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and that by his life and death he made a full atonement for the sins of the whole world.

ARTICLE VI.—I believe that, on condition of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the pardon of sin, and

the regenerating and sanctifying influences of the Holy Ghost are freely offered to all.

ARTICLE VII.—I believe that God will judge the world in righteousness, and that the eternal destiny of every soul, either of happiness or misery, will be determined according to its character.

The foregoing Manual of the Rules of Faith and Order of Zion's Church, prepared by a committee chosen for that purpose, having been examined at three regular meetings of the Church, was unanimously adopted, Article by Article, and ordered to be printed.

See Records of Zion's Church.

THOMAS MILLER,

Clerk.

St. John, February 3d, 1863.